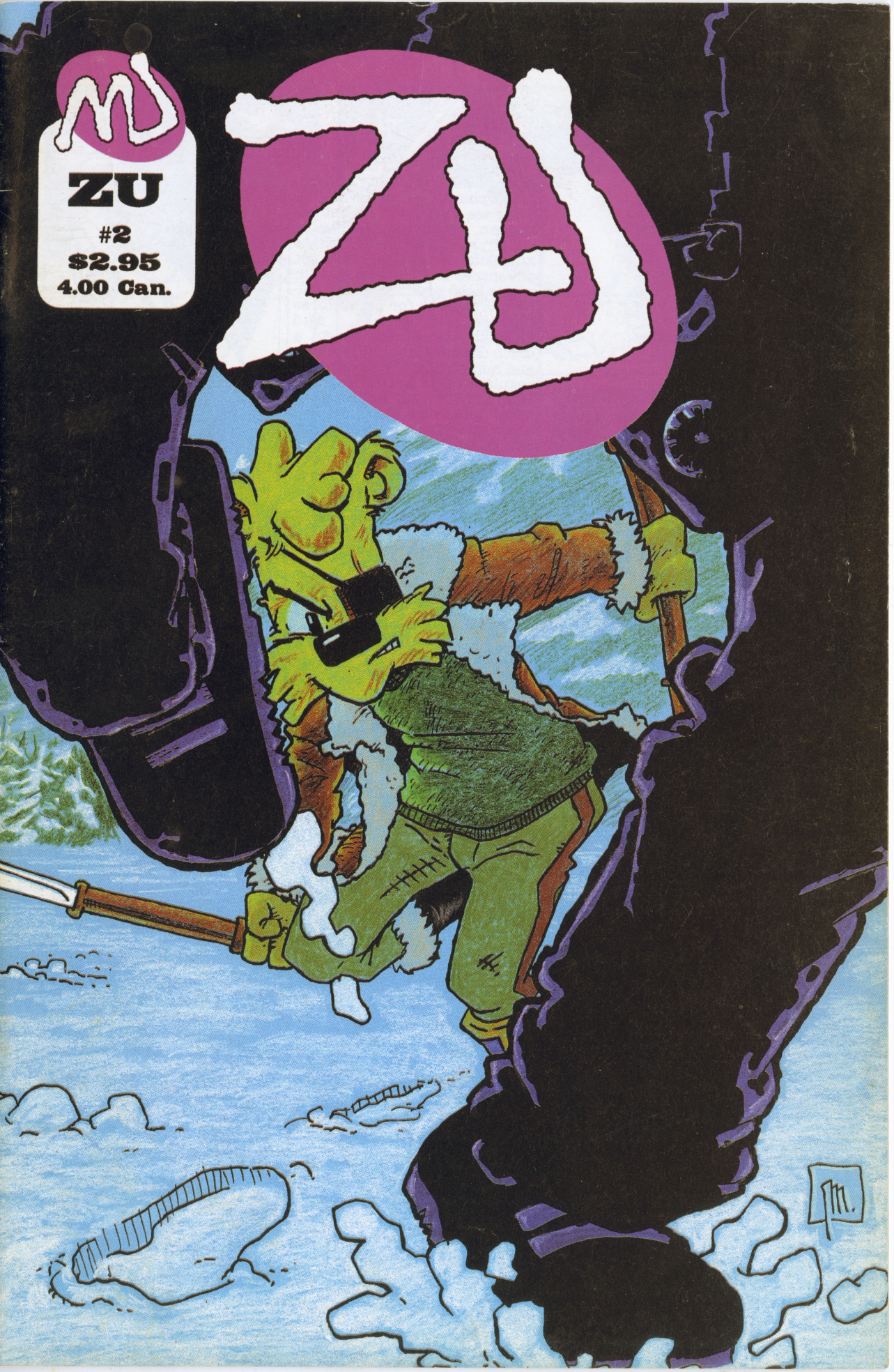
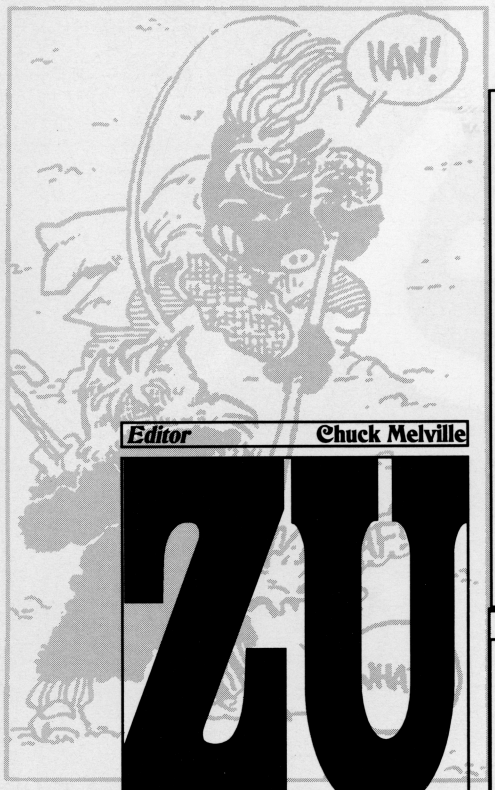

MJ
ZU
#2
$2.95
4.00 Can.
ZU



Editor **Chuck Melville**

ZU

— 2 —

Welcome back to the second issue of ZU, the quality anthropomorphic anthology. With this issue we get down to what being an anthology is really about: a showcase for talent and good stories! We've got adventure from Darko Macan, who's been producing top quality adventures for Dark Horse Comics' GRENDEL and TARZAN series. We've got a touch of satire from Bill Fortier, and humor fillers from our new regulars, Kris Kreutzman and Mike McMurry, as well as a few extra pieces by Mark Stanley and Roy Pounds; both of whom will be back in future issues.

We've got plenty of stories lined up for future issues, so start saving those dimes and nickels!

-Sergei-

-Fuzzy Logik-

In just two months! More Sergei by Darko Macan; and a trip to the "Dog Laundry" with Marc Schirmeister and Kjartan Arnorsson!

Still On Sale!

Stinz: The Bobwar A forgotton menace from the past emerges from the old swimming hole to give Stinz and his family a sudden fright!

Hugo! The collected version of Milton Knight's hapless jester and his bizarre misadventures!

Next Month:

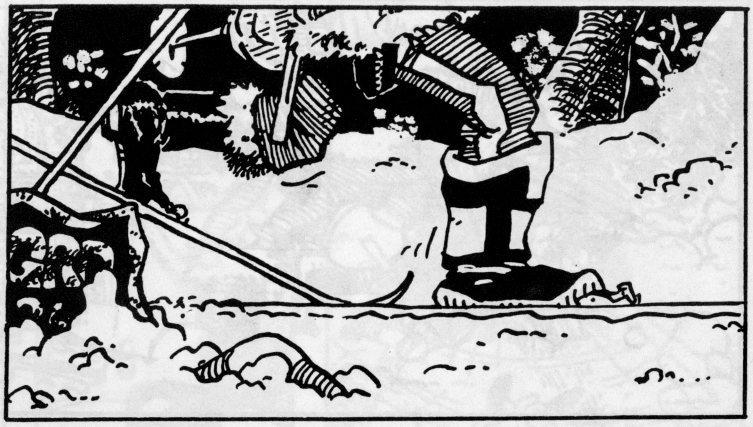
Wild Kingdom #4 Hard to believe, but there it is! A new issue of adult-rated furry stories by: Chuck Melville, Ethan Reese-Whiting, James Ernest, Paul Kidd and Terry Loh. You *must* be twenty-one to read these!

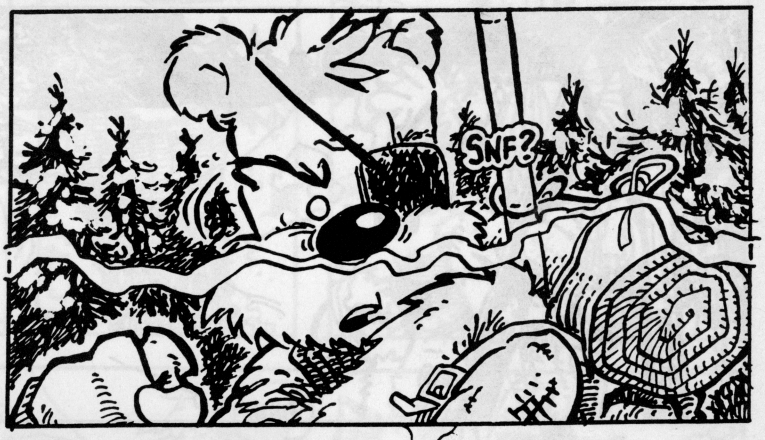
-Zonie-

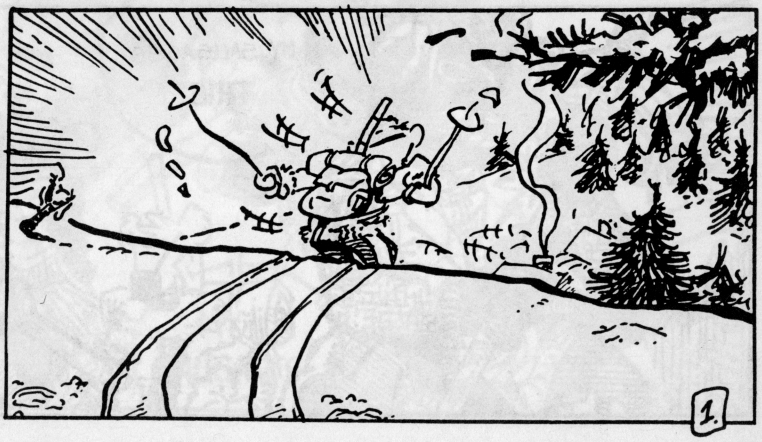
-Robert & Katrina-

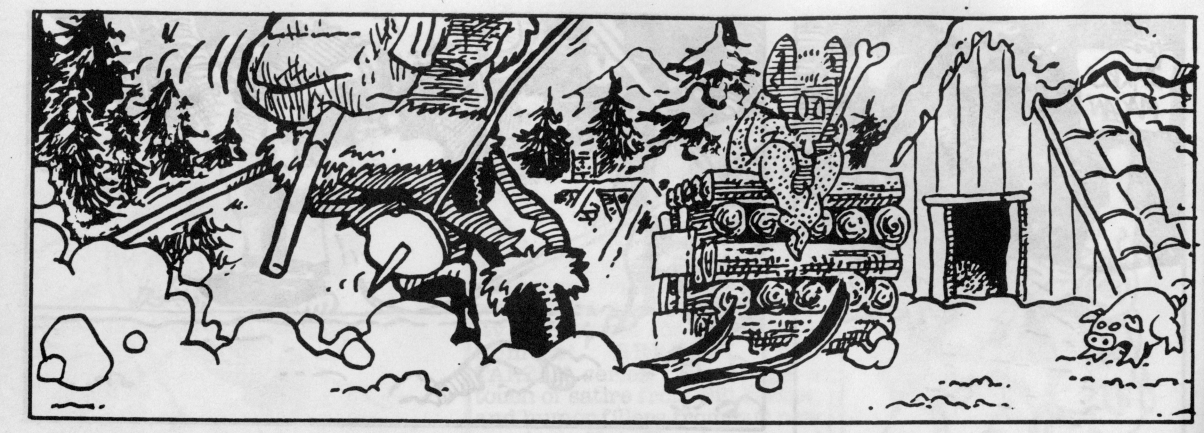
ZU 2 (ISSN 1079-1426) March, 1995. Published by MU PRESS, 5014-D Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105. "Sergei: Kingdom of the Blind" ©1995 Darko Macan; "Experiencing Conceptual Difficulties" ©1995 William Fortier; "Robert & Katrina" ©1995 Kris Kreutzman; Freefall" ©1995 Mark Stanley; "A Very Short Visit To A Very Small World" ©1995 Roy D Pounds II; "Zonie" ©1995 Michael-Scot McMurry. All rights reserved. No material herein may be copied or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without prior consent of the creator(s) (excepting purposes of review). This is a work of fiction. Any similarity between names, characters, and/or persons herein and any persons living or dead is purely coincidental. Mice are our vice.
First Printing. MU Pubs #242

DARKO MACAN
SERGEI:
KINGDOM OF THE BLIND




SNF?





YOU THIEF!
?

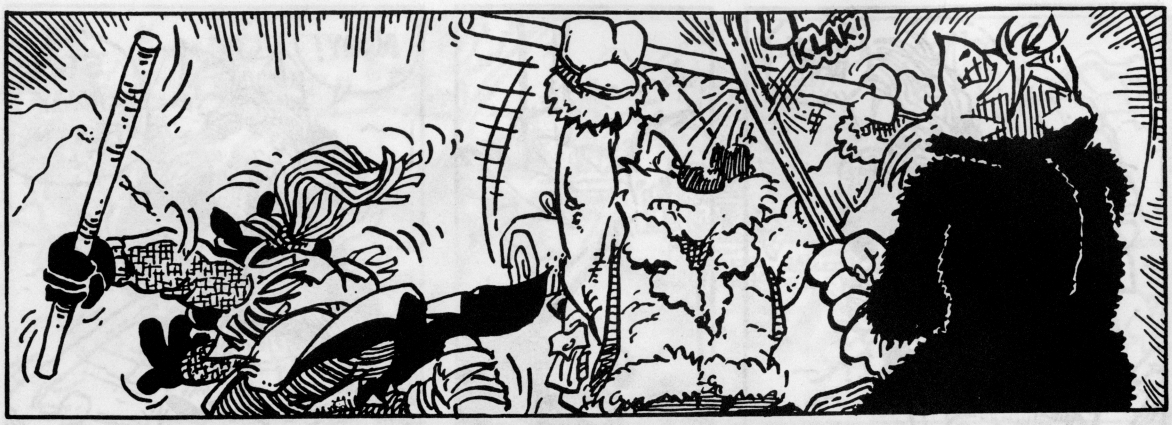
MY SAUSAGES! THIEF!
WHAT SAUSAGES? YOU'RE MAD! A MADMAN!

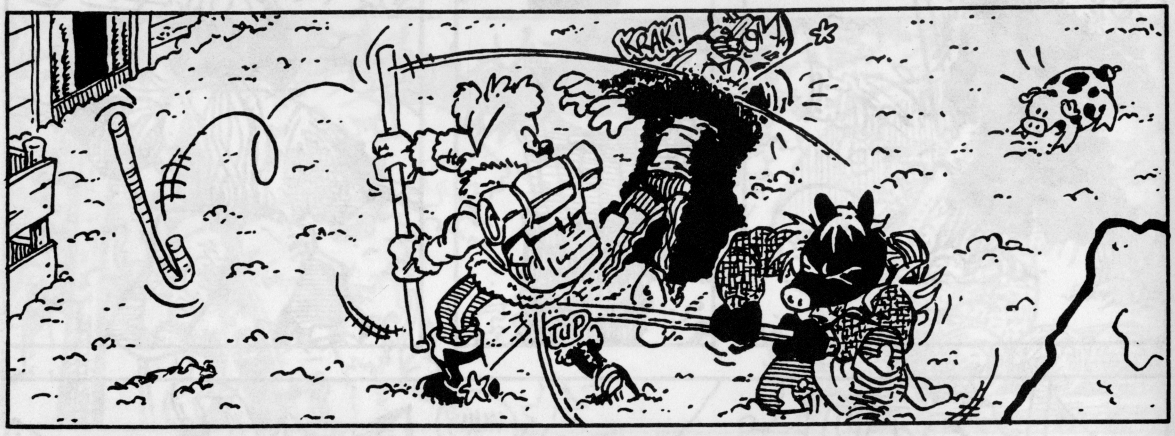
HAN!
TAF!
WHAT?

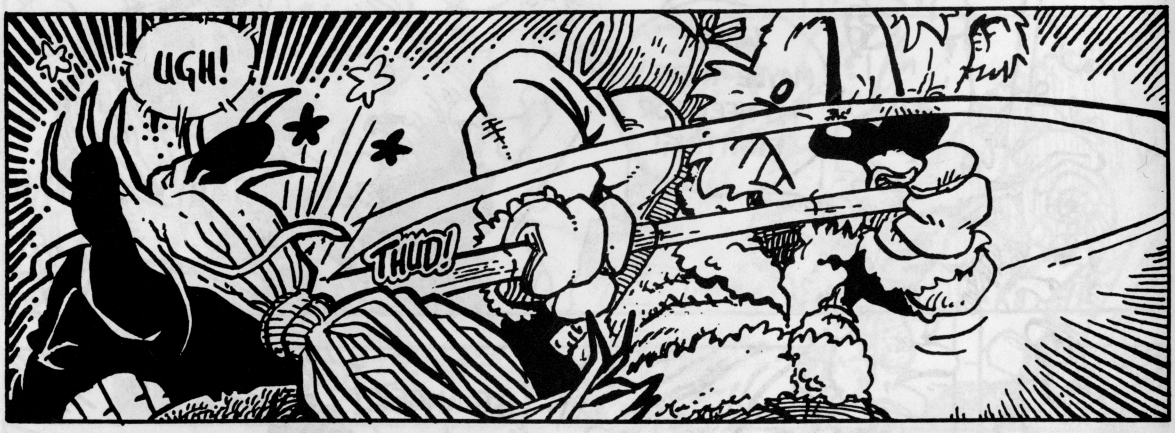
AWAY!
STAY AWAY FROM ME!

WAIT! MAYBE THERE'S NO NEED FOR FIGHTING!
HUH?
?

A STRANGER!
MY SAUSAGES!

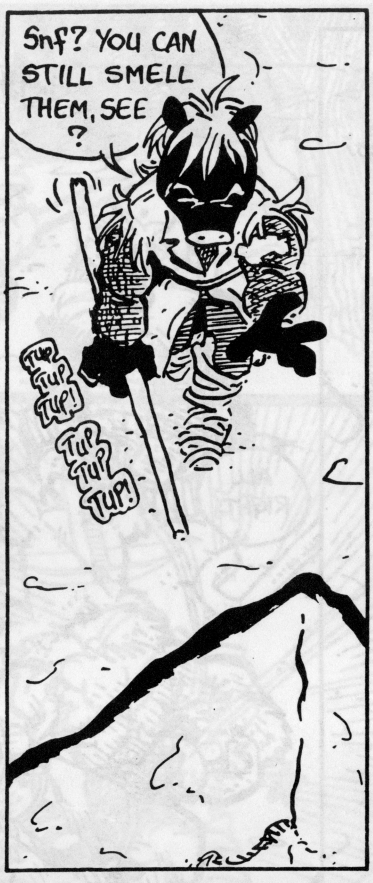

KLAK!


KRAK!
TUP


UGH!
THUD!

HAD ENOUGH NOW ?!
IT'S HIS FAULT! HE STOLE FROM ME!
HE STARTED IT! HE'S LYING!

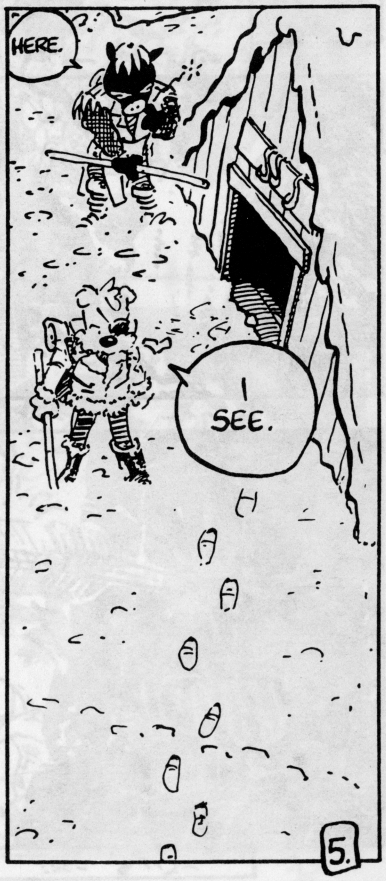
THE SAUSAGES?... WHERE DID YOU KEEP THEM?
I'LL... I'LL SHOW YOU ...
Snf?

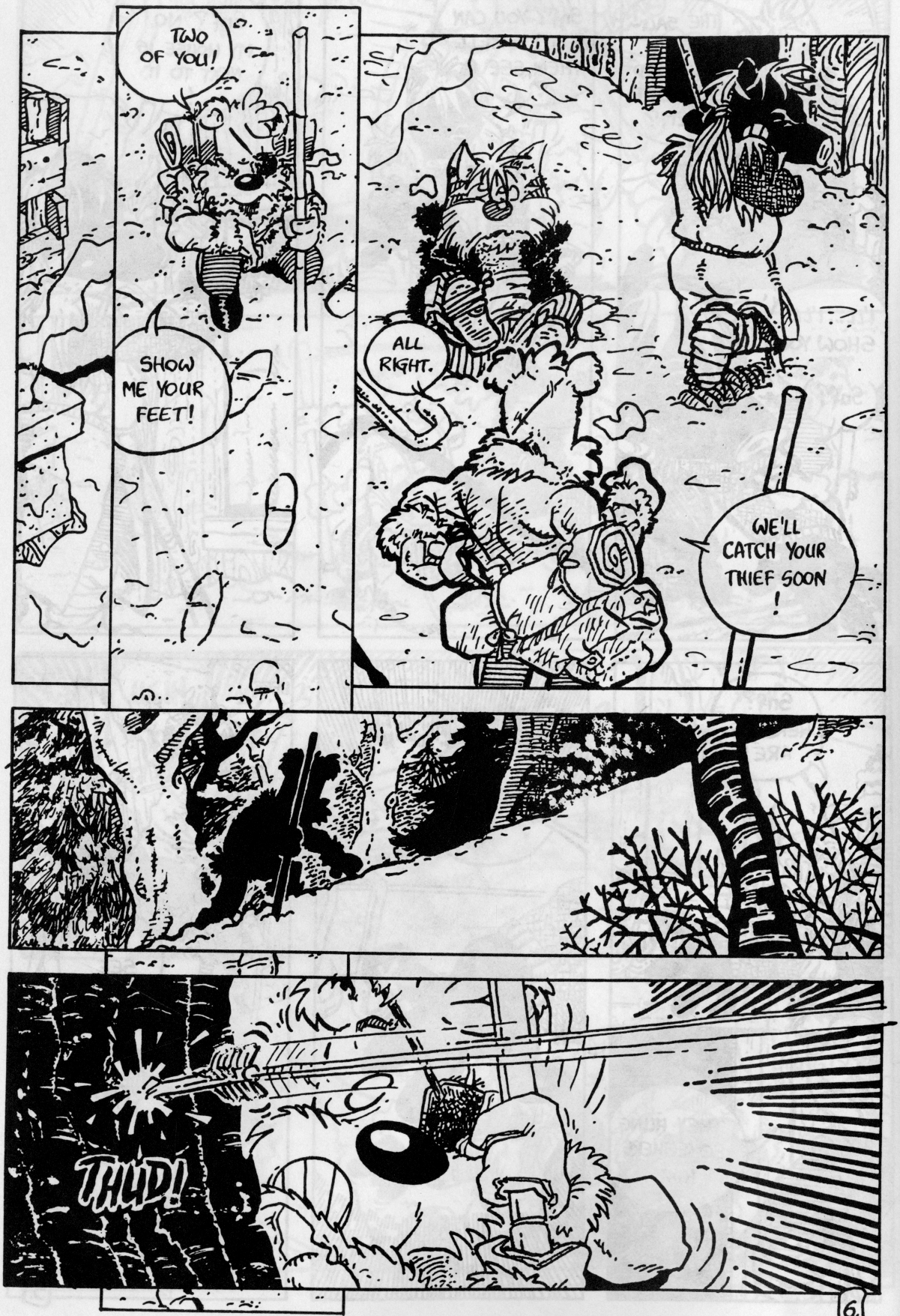

Snf? YOU CAN STILL SMELL THEM, SEE ?
TUP TUP TUP!
TUP TUP TUP!

Snf? NO, MY HOUSE IS NEXT TO IT !
TUP TUP TUP

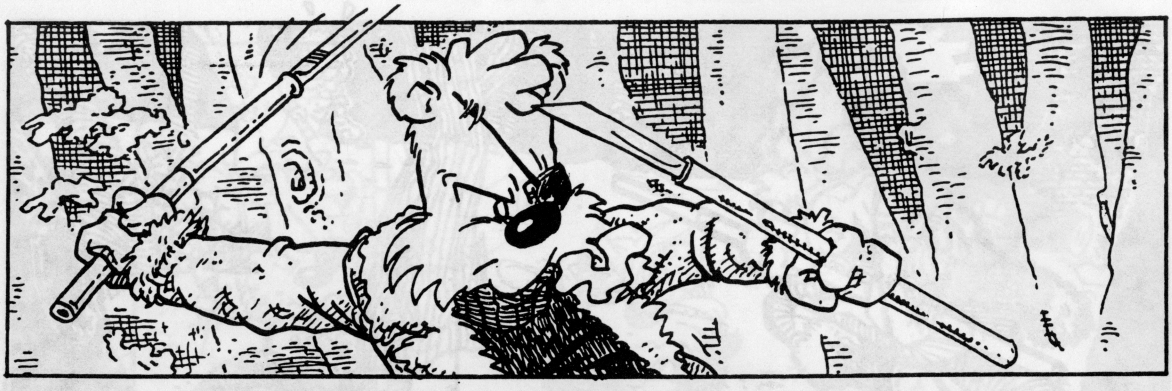
Snf? HERE WE ARE!
TAP TAP TAP TAP!
THEY HUNG SOMEWHERE H...

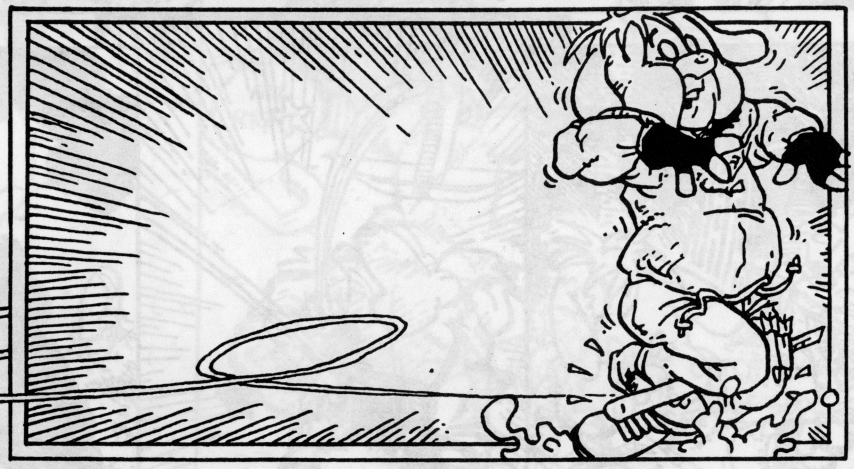
...EARGH!


HERE.
I SEE.


TWO OF YOU!
SHOW ME YOUR FEET!
ALL RIGHT.
WE'LL CATCH YOUR THIEF SOON!
THUD!

Ssss...Kt!





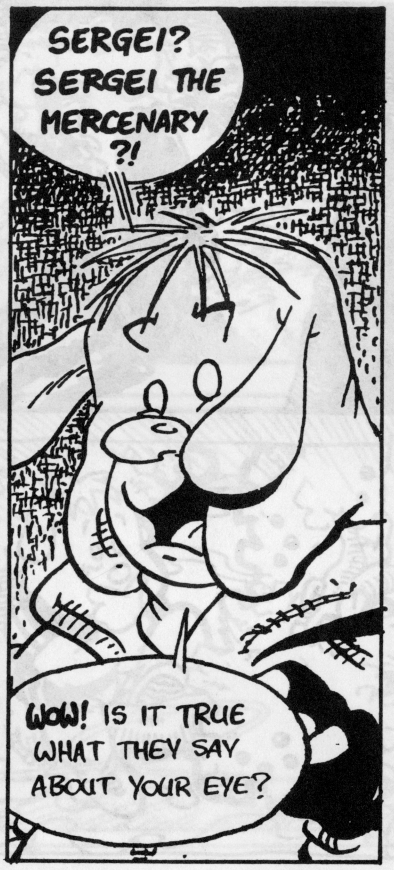
PLOUF!

KILL ME, BANDIT, BUT YOU'LL CARRY THE WHOLE VILLAGE ON YOUR CON-SCIENCE!

GO ON! DO IT!
DON'T PLAY WITH ME!

THE WAR SPARED US UNTIL THE END... THEN THE PLANE CRASHED.
I PLAYED WITH A CANISTER OF WAR-GAS... I DIDN'T KNOW IT'LL OXYDATE... BLIND THEM ALL...
I WANTED TO CLIMB DOWN, BECAME LIKE THEM... I COULDN'T!
THEY'RE GETTING ON FINE NOW. I WATCH FOR WILD ANIMALS AND BANDITS, PICK UP SOME FOOD NOW AND THEN.
THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW I EXIST. THAT'S MY PENITENCE!
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW.
NEVERMIND! AT LEAST YOU TRIED TO HELP THEM... THAT'S RARE!
HERE, I WAS COOKING THEM WHEN I HEARD YOU... WANT SOME?
THANKS.

I HAVE SOME MASHED POTATOES, TOO...
BY THE WAY: THE NAME'S OTON.
THANKS... SERGEI.


SERGEI? SERGEI THE MERCENARY ?!
WOW! IS IT TRUE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT YOUR EYE?

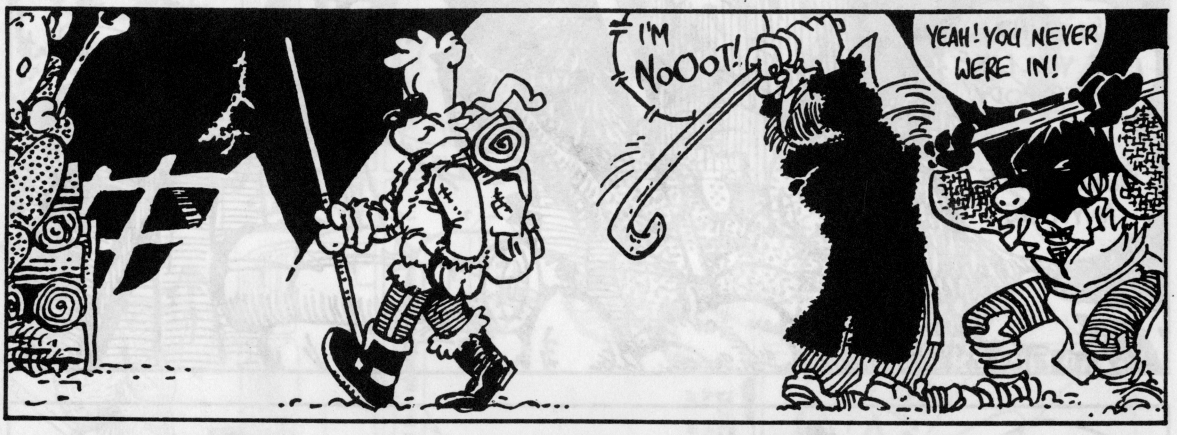
NO.
WOW! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE? A JOB?

NOT HERE. FURTHER SOUTH.
ADVENTURE NEVER STOPS, HUH? WOW! HOW I ENVY YOU!

NO REASON, REALLY...
GOING ALREADY? CALL OF THE WILD, HUH?
WOW!

IT WAS AN HONOR, MERCENARY!

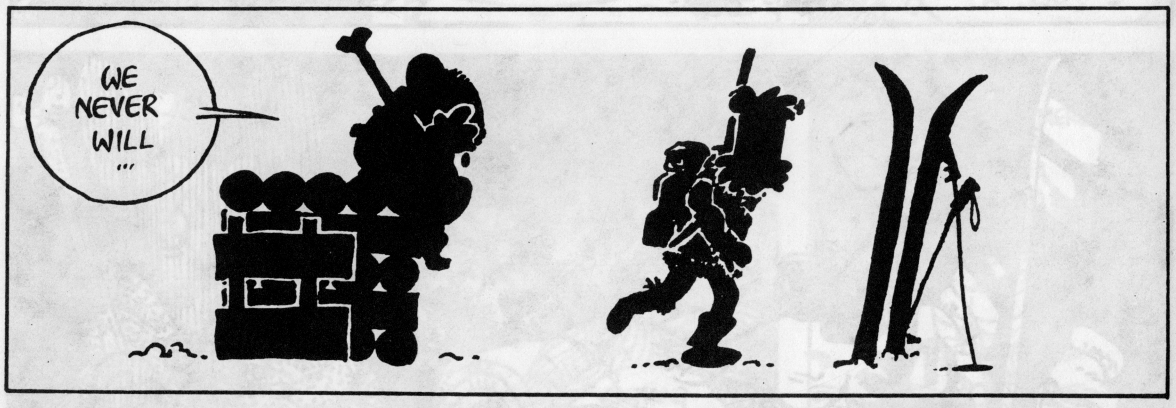
MY POTATOES! YOU TOOK THEM!
ME? YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND!


I'M NoOOT!
YEAH! YOU NEVER WERE IN!

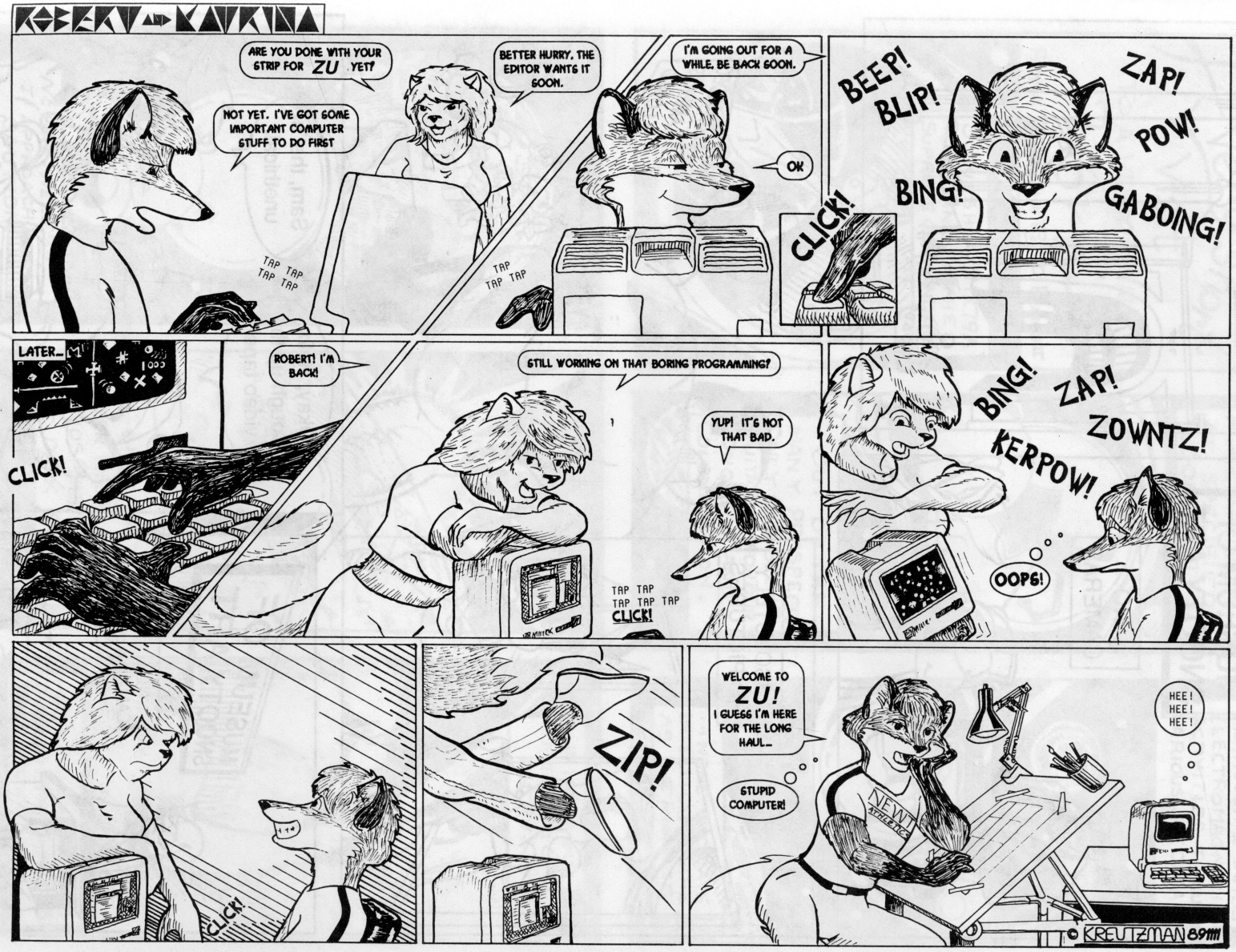
HEY!
YOU CAN SEE!

OH NO, SIR! ...I AM BLIND.
I'M BLIND!

I'M BLIND LIKE YOU. LIKE EVERYBODY!
WE NEVER SEE ANYTHING...

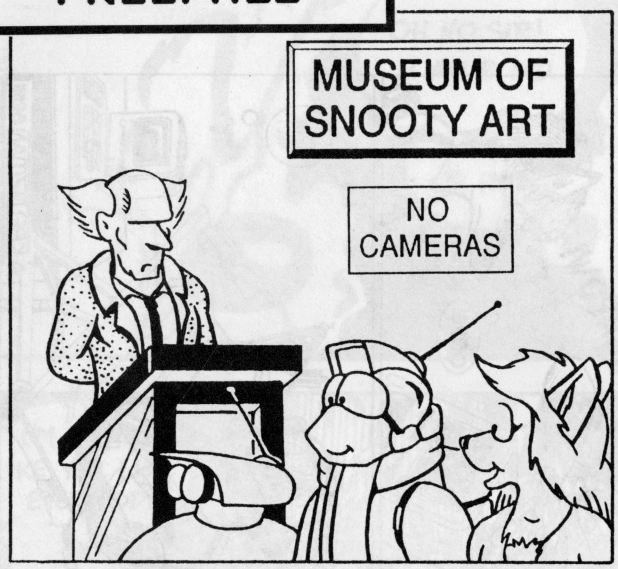

WE NEVER WILL ...

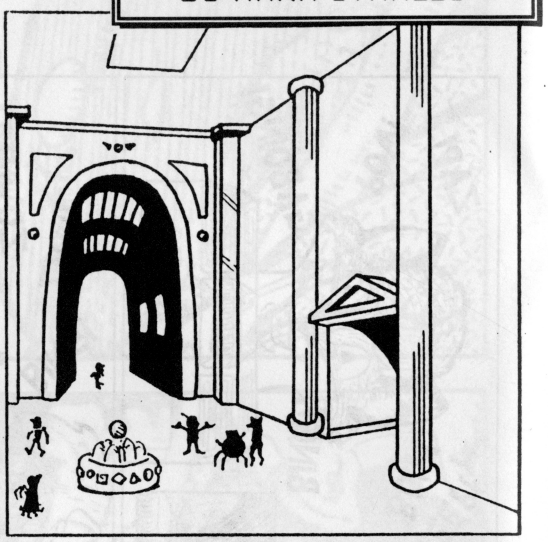
FIN

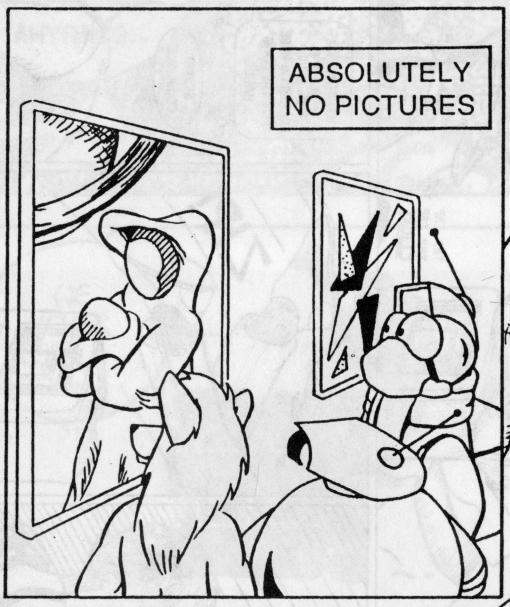

ROBERT AND KATRINA
ARE YOU DONE WITH YOUR STRIP FOR ZU YET?
NOT YET. I'VE GOT SOME IMPORTANT COMPUTER STUFF TO DO FIRST
TAP TAP TAP TAP
BETTER HURRY, THE EDITOR WANTS IT SOON.
TAP TAP TAP
I'M GOING OUT FOR A WHILE. BE BACK SOON.
OK
CLICK!
BEEP! BLIP!
BING!
ZAP!
POW!
GABOING!
LATER...
CLICK!
ROBERT! I'M BACK!
STILL WORKING ON THAT BORING PROGRAMMING?
YUP! IT'S NOT THAT BAD.
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
CLICK!
BING!
ZAP!
ZOWNTZ!
KERPOW!
OOPS!
CLICK!
ZIP!
WELCOME TO ZU! I GUESS I'M HERE FOR THE LONG HAUL...
STUPID COMPUTER!
HEE! HEE! HEE!
NEWS
© KREUTZMAN 89

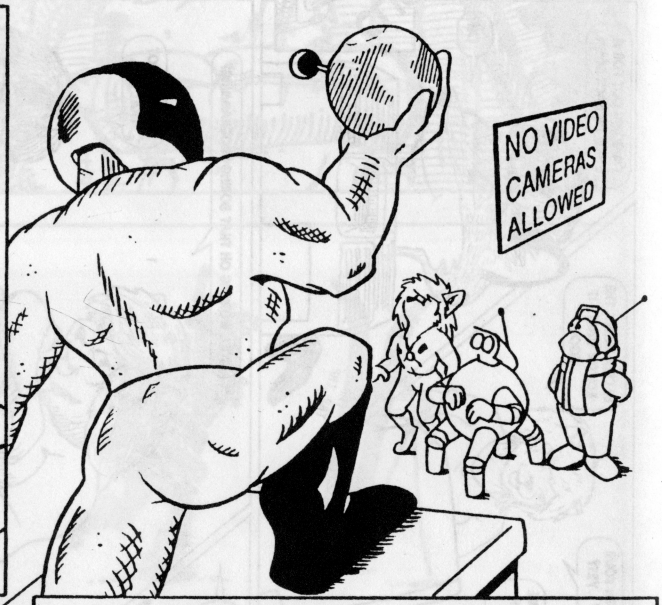
FREEFALL

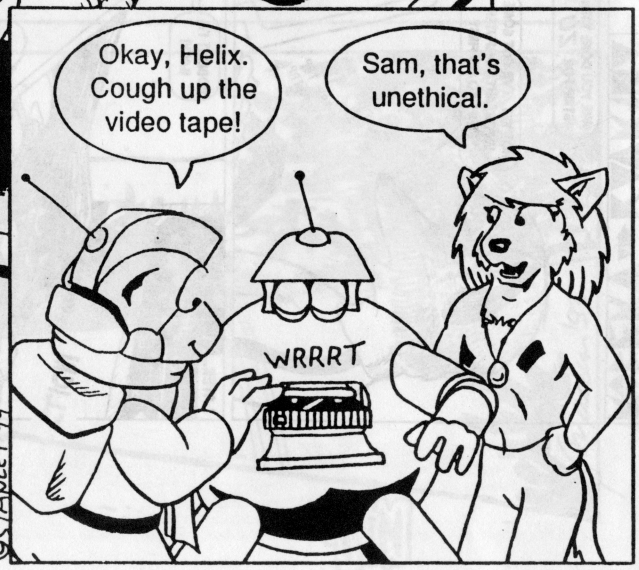
BY MARK STANLEY

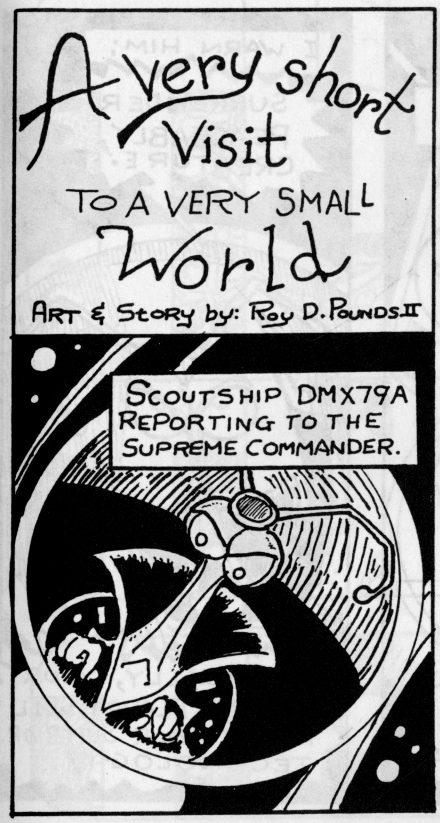


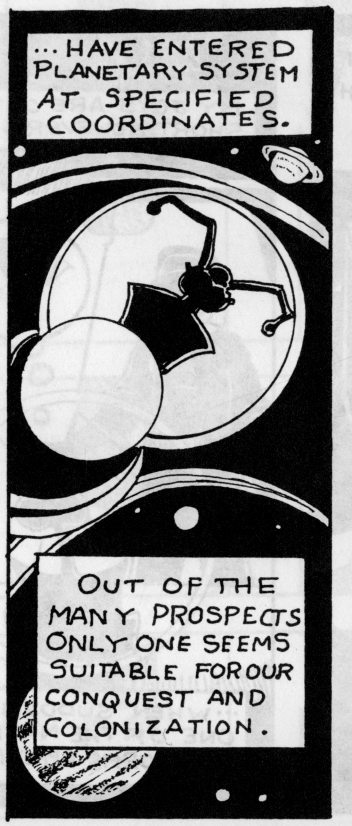


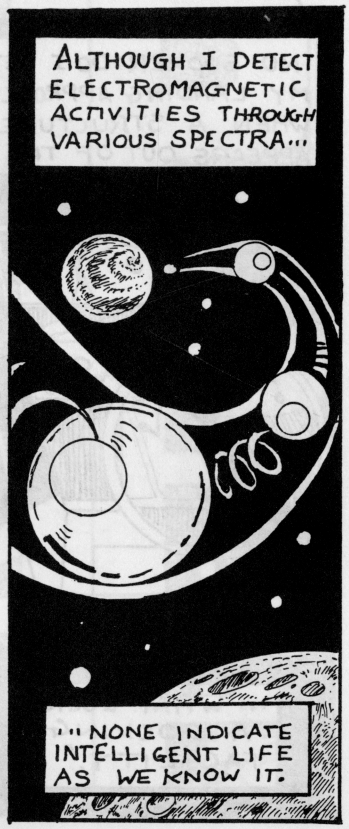


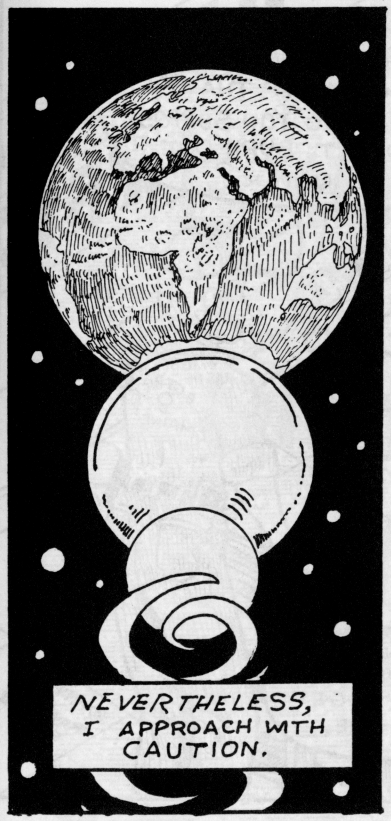


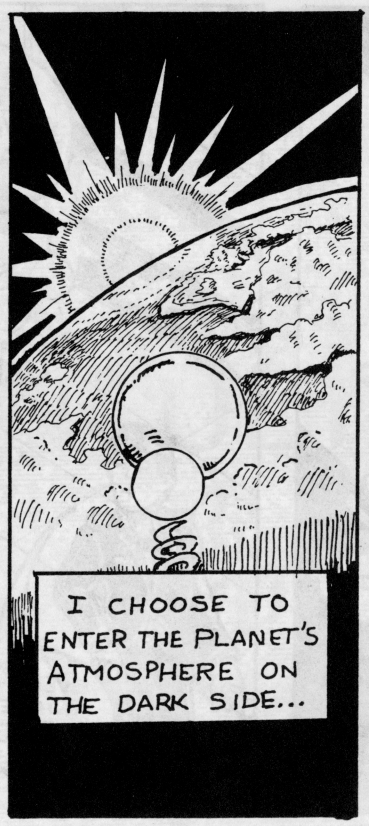


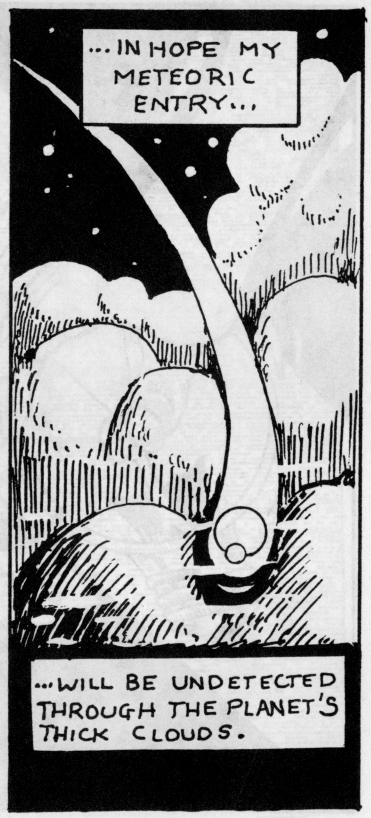

A very short Visit
TO A VERY SMALL World
ART & STORY by: Roy D. POUNDS II
SCOUTSHIP DMX79A REPORTING TO THE SUPREME COMMANDER.


...HAVE ENTERED PLANETARY SYSTEM AT SPECIFIED COORDINATES.
OUT OF THE MANY PROSPECTS ONLY ONE SEEMS SUITABLE FOR OUR CONQUEST AND COLONIZATION.

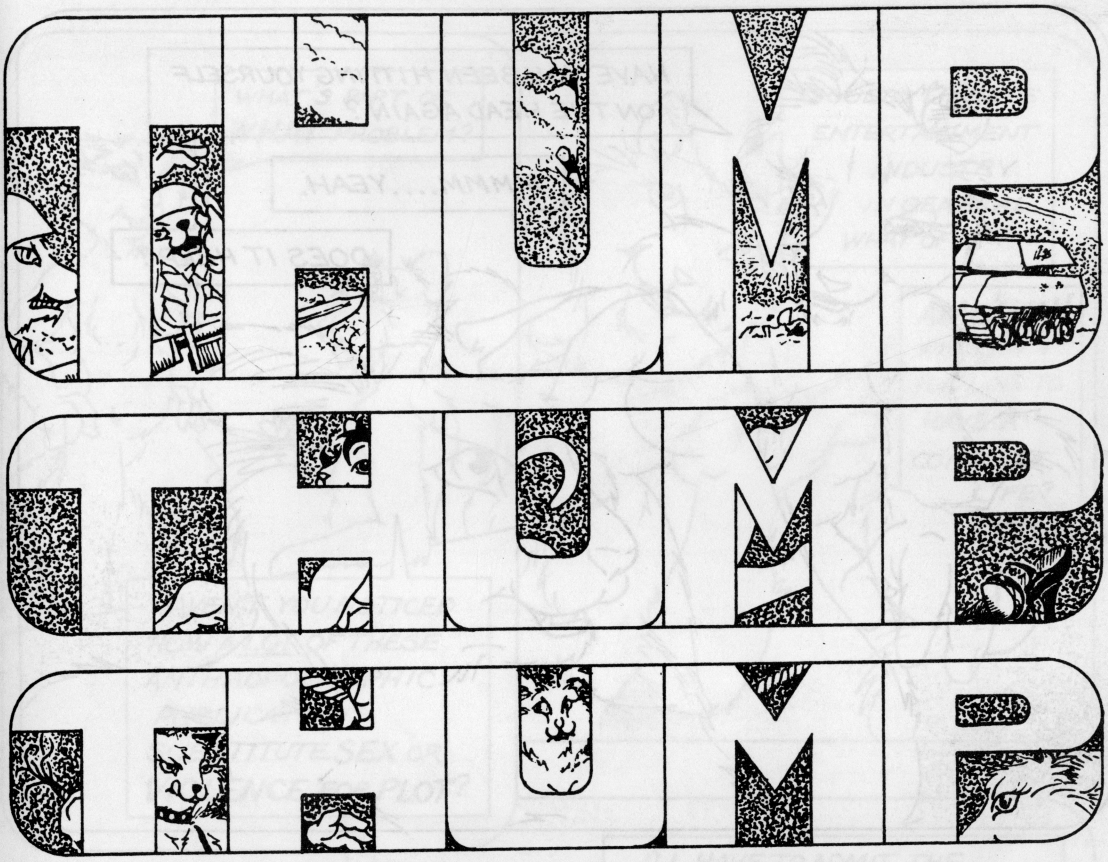

ALTHOUGH I DETECT ELECTROMAGNETIC ACTIVITIES THROUGH VARIOUS SPECTRA...
...NONE INDICATE INTELLIGENT LIFE AS WE KNOW IT.


NEVERTHELESS, I APPROACH WITH CAUTION.


I CHOOSE TO ENTER THE PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE ON THE DARK SIDE...


...IN HOPE MY METEORIC ENTRY...
...WILL BE UNDETECTED THROUGH THE PLANET'S THICK CLOUDS.

NO SOONER DO I SET MY LANDING APPROACH WHEN A STRUCTURE APPEARS OUT OF THE DARKNESS.
... WHAT LUCK! A DOCKING FACILITY!
MY JOYS ARE CUT SHORT HOWEVER...
...WHEN SUDDENLY ONE OF THE NATIVE LIFE FORMS APPEARS!
I WARN HIM;
SURRENDER PEACEABLY, CREATURE!
EVENTUALLY, YOUR ENTIRE PLANET WILL YIELD TO OUR SUPERIOR TECHNOLOGY!
EEEP!
NOW SHOWING
GEE! WILL YA LOOK AT THAT! WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE MADE IT BURN OUT SO QUICK?
POP!
SNAP!
FRIZZ!
ELECTRICAL MAINT.
EVERY ONCE IN AWHILE YA GET A BAD ONE.
©1994 Roy D. Pounds II



EXPERIENCING CONCEPTUAL DIFFICULTIES

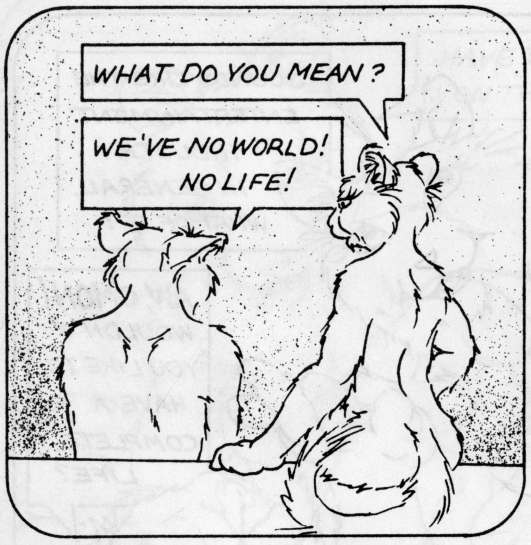
Please Stand By

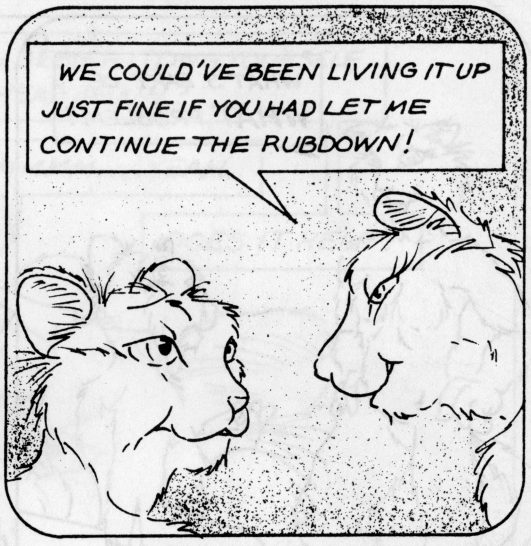
HAVE YOU BEEN HITTING YOURSELF ON THE HEAD AGAIN?
MMMM....YEAH.
DOES IT HELP?

NO, OF COURSE NOT. BUT THAT NECK RUB DOES!
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT.

AND IF THIS DOESN'T RELAX YOU I'LL HAVE TO EMPLOY MORE INTENSIVE THERAPY!
SIGH I DON'T WANT TO SEEM LIKE A WET BLANKET, BUT THIS IS PART OF THE PROBLEM.

WHAT'S PART OF WHAT PROBLEM?
HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED HOW A LOT OF THESE ANTHROPOMORPHIC PUBLICATIONS SUBSTITUTE SEX OR VIOLENCE FOR PLOT?
SOUNDS LIKE THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY IN GENERAL. WHAT OF IT?
AW, C'MON! WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO HAVE A COMPLETE LIFE?
COMPLETE? YOU MEAN LIKE WITH SMOG, TAXES AND YEAST INFECTIONS?
NOT REALLY.
WELL, MAYBE NOT QUITE THAT COMPLETE, BUT LOOK AROUND! WE LIVE IN A VOID!
I'LL HAVE TO ADMIT THE FURNISHINGS ARE A BIT SPARSE.
THE DECOR ISN'T THE HALF OF IT!

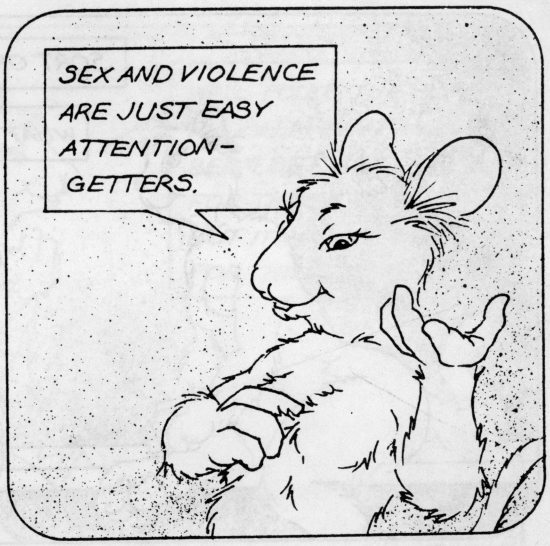

WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?
WE'VE NO WORLD! NO LIFE!

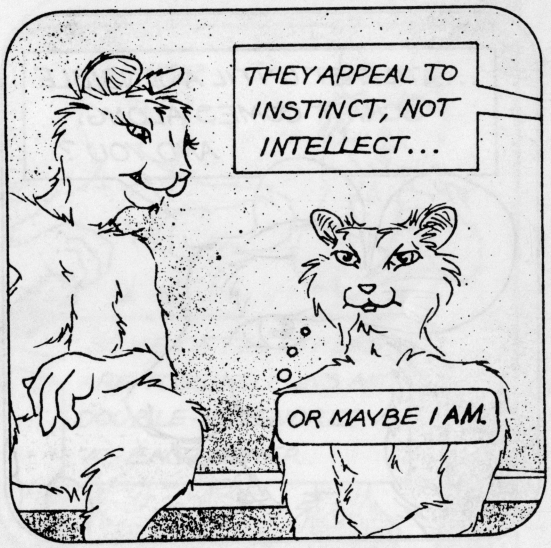

WE COULD'VE BEEN LIVING IT UP JUST FINE IF YOU HAD LET ME CONTINUE THE RUBDOWN!

... OR WOULD YOU PREFER SOME VIOLENCE ?
NO. THANKS.

BLOODY PHILOSOPHER....
LOOK, I'M SORRY IF I UPSET YOU, BUT DON'T YOU FEEL THERE SHOULD BE MORE THAN POSING IN PARAPHERNALIA, OR AVOIDING PROJECTILES ?
SURE THERE SHOULD, BUT IT'S A LOT HARDER TO SELL NORMALCY....

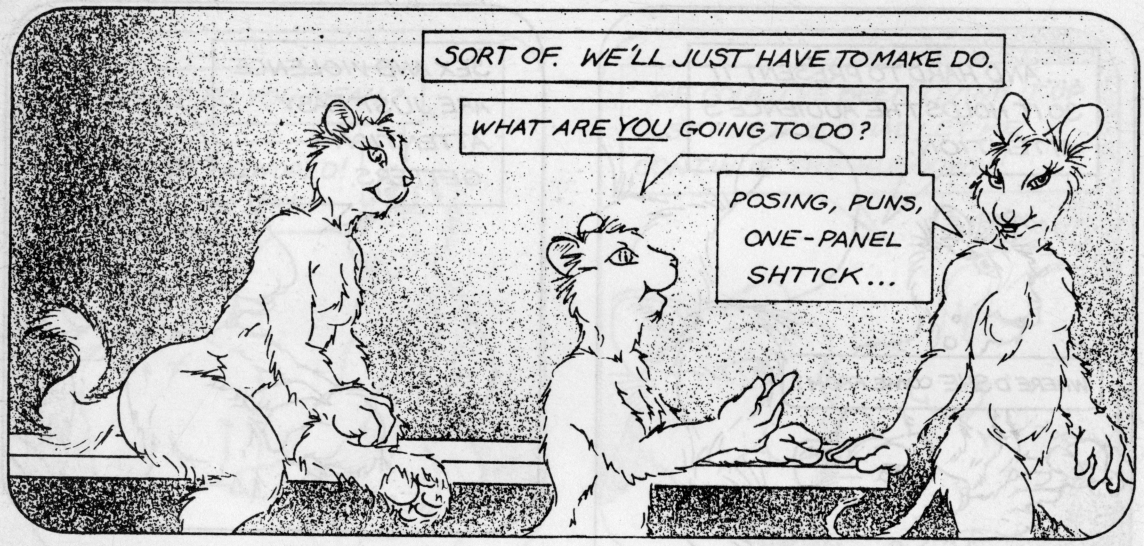
...AND HARD TO PRESENT IT SO IT HOLDS THE AUDIENCE'S ATTENTION.
WHERE'D SHE COME FROM?
OH, GOOD! I'M NOT ALONE IN THIS.

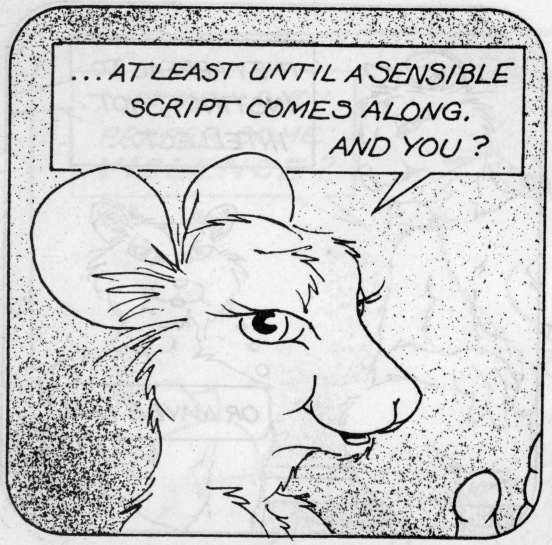

SEX AND VIOLENCE ARE JUST EASY ATTENTION-GETTERS.

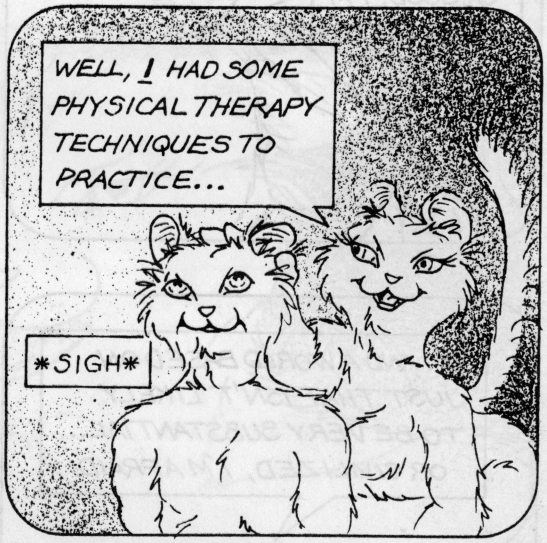

THEY APPEAL TO INSTINCT, NOT INTELLECT...
OR MAYBE I AM.

...AND A WORLD BASED ON JUST THAT ISN'T LIKELY TO BE VERY SUBSTANTIAL... OR CIVILIZED, I'M AFRAID.

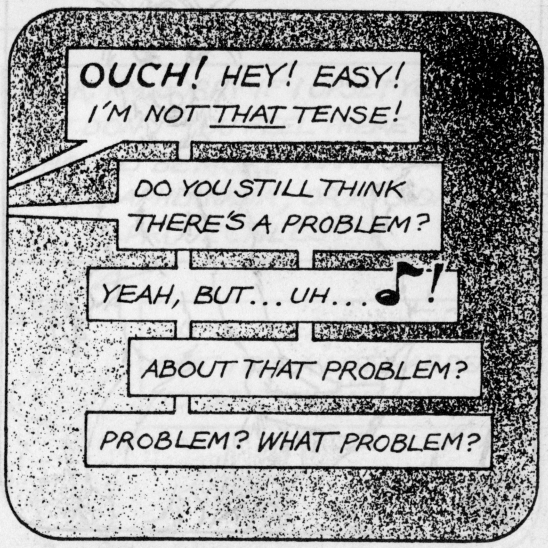
SO, UNLESS WE GET A DECENT WRITER, WE'RE STUCK WITH... THIS?


SORT OF. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE DO.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
POSING, PUNS, ONE-PANEL SHTICK...


...AT LEAST UNTIL A SENSIBLE SCRIPT COMES ALONG. AND YOU?

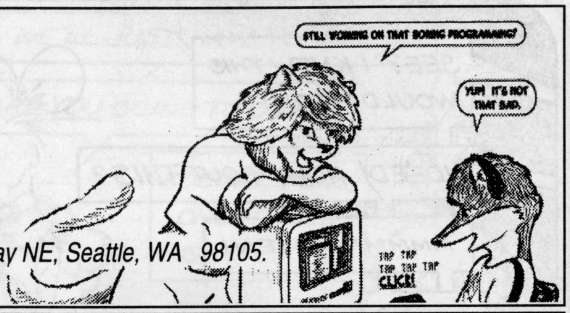

WELL, I HAD SOME PHYSICAL THERAPY TECHNIQUES TO PRACTICE...
SIGH

LIKE SHE SAID, MAKE DO.
IT BEATS GETTING SHOT AT!


OUCH! HEY! EASY! I'M NOT THAT TENSE!
DO YOU STILL THINK THERE'S A PROBLEM?
YEAH, BUT... UH... ♪!
ABOUT THAT PROBLEM?
PROBLEM? WHAT PROBLEM?

SEE? I KNEW THIS WOULD WORK!
INDEED! HOW ABOUT THIS?
MMMMMMMYEAH.
THIS?
YOW! TO THE LEFT... WOOOO! BINGO!
WELL, FOLKS, THE PROBLEM MAY HAVE BEEN SET ASIDE FOR THOSE TWO, BUT IT HASN'T BEEN FOR THE REST OF US.
I'M OFF TO TRY ON LINGERIE AND FLAK JACKETS!
SOME OF THE OTHERS ARE TOSSING PUNS AND DOUBLE-ENTENDRES AT EACH OTHER.
THE RESEARCH GROUP IS TRYING TO FIND PEACEFUL USES FOR HEAVY ARMOR, AND DIGITIGRADE FOOTWEAR THAT DOESN'T LOOK SILLY.
IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT IT'S A START.
HEY!
THAT'S IT? I LOOK LIKE BOZO THE CLOWN!
NOT FUNNY.
WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE? AL BUNDY?

ANIMAL CRACKERS



Send all mail to ZU, MU Press, 5014-D Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105.
Or send e-mail to e.vick1@genie.geis.com

With any luck at all, this issue will be hitting the stands on time, a considerable improvement over the sorry performance of our debut issue. We apologize for the book having shipped so late; it was our intention for it to premiere during Confurence VI this year, but fate conspired against us. The printer, against all assurances to the contrary, got a late start on printing it and shipped it way, way late.

We also apologize to Jay Shell for having made him wait so long for the appearance of his story, which was the showcase of that issue.

Enough of the past; let's take a look at our current line-up:

Beginning a three-issue run in this issue is *Sergei* by Darko Macan. Darko, who hails from Croatia, has already been racking up a reputation as a fine comic writer over at Dark Horse Comics, writing for various mini-series, such as *Grendel: Devils and Deaths*, *Grendel: Devil's Choices* (currently available from DH), and the upcoming *Tarzan: Mugambi*. (Copies of all three mini-series can be had for $2.95 apiece at the comic shops right now, and in a very few short months for the Tarzan series.)

So far as I'm aware, Sergei marks Darko's American debut as both writer and artist. We're particularly thrilled to have Darko participating with us in *ZU*, and we owe *Usagi Yojimbo*'s creator, Stan Sakai a note of thanks for introducing Darko to us.

Bill Fortier presents a little bit o' satire from his *Fuzzy Logik* stories, with a look at "Conceptual Difficulties". Bill has a keen wit to match his sharp observations; you can find more of his humor in his fanzines, *Fuzzy Logik*, and *Fuzzy Logik, Too*. Highly recommended!

Kris Kreutzman comes on board this issue as a regular, with his *Robert & Katrina* strip. Besides his work as a programmer and animator at Apple, Kris is also a regular contributor and art editor for *YARF!*, the premiere furry fanzine, which is where you'll also find *Robert & Katrina*.

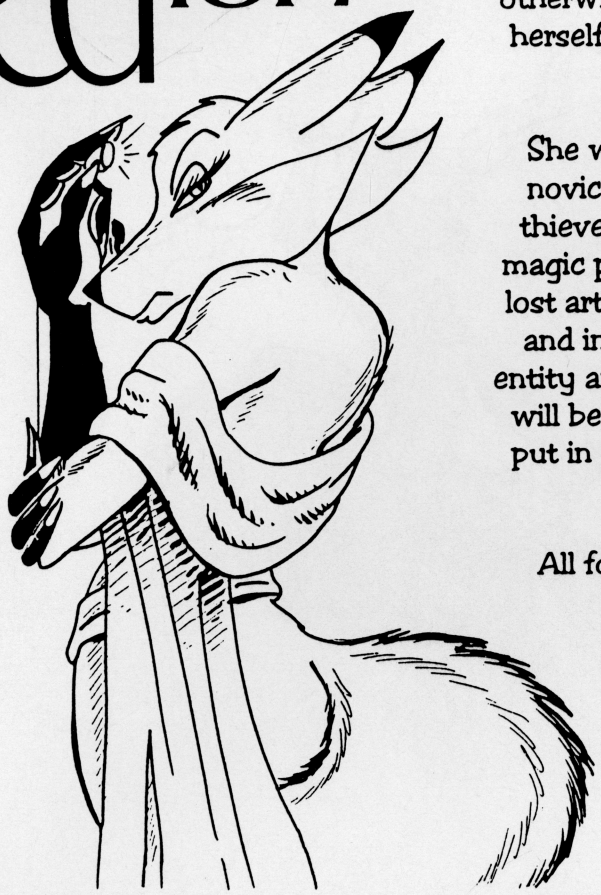
Also signing on as a regular is Mike McMurry, who introduces his *Zonie* the coyote in this issue. Mike has been very active in furry fandom, and has been refining his talents in *ROWRBRAZZLE* over the past few years.

Roy Pounds has been a regular contributor to *The Furkindred*, and has appeared in nearly every furry fanzine known to fandom. He's only a two-page filler in this issue, but will be returning in a couple of issues with a longer story and a full-color cover. I would expect to see Roy showing up in these pages as a semi-regular.

Mark Stanley has been producing his *Freefall* strip for *YARF!* almost since the fanzine's inception. Unfortunately, his grueling work schedule keeps him from being here on a regular basis, but he makes an appearance in this issue, and hopefully will be back in the near future.

We'll be back in sixty days with another *Sergei* story and more new stuff. In the meantime... if you've any opinions, dissensions, digressions, regressions, or requests... write! (You know how we worry...)

Felicia
Melari's Wish



She was arguably the most powerful sorceress in the Free Lands. She had no ties to any Order, reputable or otherwise; her loyalties were only to herself, yet they hired her to find a lost magical artifact.

She was joined in her quest by a novice swordswoman, two sneak thieves, an innkeeper's wife, and a magic pony. Before she will find the lost artifact, she will encounter plots and intrigues, a ghost, a malicious entity and an unexpected burden; she will be tested, tempted, hunted, and put in danger of losing both her life and her eternal soul.

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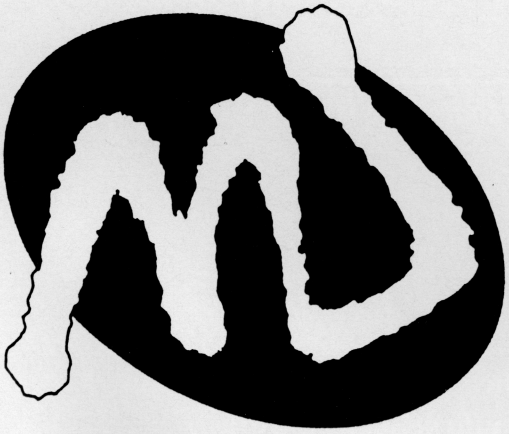

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